Maharashtra, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi took effective steps in containing set-to-set transfer of mails as directed in the Circular under consideration.

Licence to unemployed youth to operate Mini Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh

1712. SHRI MOHAN BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department in Andhra Pradesh will give licence to unemployed Graduates to operate Mini Post Offices;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a great potential to use the unemployed youth in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so how Government propose to study the potentiality of the educated unemployed youth in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

ISD/STD/PCO Booths in Tirupati and Tirumala

1713. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ISD/STD/Public Phone Booths under operation in Tirupati and Tirumala in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of pending applications for ISD/STD/PCOs by unemployed youth in Tirupati and Tirumala; and

(c) how Andhra Pradesh Telecom proposes to meet this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) There are 135 and 12 ISD/STD/Public Phone Booths under operation in Tirupati and Tirumala, respectively, in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No applications are pending at Tirumala 110 sanctioned cases are pending execution at Tirupati.

(c) the pending demand at Tirupati would be met after expension of the exchange before March '96 subject to availability of equipment and funds.

Cellular Mobile Telephone Service

1714. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether provisions of cellular mobile telephone service in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan has been authorised to third highest bidder;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background;

(c) whether Government propose to provide similar service to Assam also in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rajasthan circle has been offered to M/s. Hexacom India Ltd., the third highest bidder as M/s. Modicom Network Pvt. Ltd., the highest bidden in three Circles viz., Rajasthan, Punjab and Karnataka, had limited networth, hence, the company was eligible for only two circles. An option was given to the Company to choose any two Circles. The Company choose Karnataka & Punjab Circles. Accordingly, Rajasthan Circle has been offered to the third highest bidder. Due to limitation of three Circles to any single bidder company, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh Circles have been offered to the third highest bidder in those Circles. M/s. US West-BPL was the highest bidder in Kerala and Tamil Nadu Circles. The company was the second highest bidder in Maharashtra Gujarat & Andhra Pradesh Circles. The Company was offered Kerala & Tamilnadu in which